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PRIORITY

FRP: .2.
STAFF

OUTGOING

[REDACTED]

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TOT: 160509Z APR 88

SECRET NOFORN NOCTRACT
BRIEF 160509Z
TO: EUROPEAN BRIEF.

WNINTEL

[REDACTED]

SUBJECT: EUROPEAN BRIEF [REDACTED] FOR 16 APRIL 1988.

FROM: DDI/O/CPAS.

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1. IRAN-US: MORE MINES FOUND IN PERSIAN GULF

IRAN HAS COME CLOSE TO CLAIMING CREDIT FOR MINING THE WATERS WHERE A US WARSHIP STRUCK A MINE IN THE PERSIAN GULF ON THURSDAY AND MAY HAVE DECIDED TO REDOUBLE ITS EFFORTS TO COUNTER THE US PRESENCE THERE. [REDACTED]

US NAVAL FORCES RECOVERED TWO MINES YESTERDAY IN THE AREA NORTHEAST OF BAHRAIN WHERE THE USS ROBERTS HAD STRUCK A MINE. THE MINES WERE MOORED IN A SHIPPING LANE USED BY TANKERS OUTBOUND FROM SAUDI PORTS. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] b3
[REDACTED]
IN HIS MUSLIM SABBATH SERMON YESTERDAY, ASSEMBLY SPEAKER RAFSANJANI CAME CLOSE TO SAYING THAT IRAN WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MINING. HE SAID THE DAMAGE TO THE US FRIGATE CONFIRMS IRAN'S PREDICTION OF A YEAR AGO THAT WASHINGTON'S DECISION TO ESCORT TANKERS WOULD BRING DEFEAT AND DISGRACE TO THE US. RAFSANJANI SAID THAT IRAN'S NAVAL CAPABILITIES IN THE SOUTHERN GULF HAVE INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY OVER THE PAST YEAR BECAUSE OF THREATS FROM THE US AND OTHERS IN THE WEST. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] b3
[REDACTED]
IRANIAN MILITARY COMMANDERS MAY DOUBT THAT THE US WILL RESPOND TO THE MINELAYING AND MAY HAVE CONCLUDED THAT IRAN NEED NOT TAKE ADDITIONAL DEFENSIVE MEASURES. THE INCIDENT AND RAFSANJANI'S STATEMENT SUGGEST TEHRAN HAS DECIDED THAT THE STATUS QUO IN THE GULF IS NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE AND THAT IRAN WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS TO SUBVERT THE US PRESENCE THERE. [REDACTED]

TEHRAN MAY HAVE DECIDED TO CHALLENGE THE US NOW IN AN ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE IRANIAN CIVILIAN MORALE WEAKENED BY RECENT IRAQI AIR AND MISSILE ATTACKS. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] b3

2. HONDURAS-US: MILITARY RESTIVE OVER DRUG AFFAIR

THE HONDURAN MILITARY IS AGGRESSIVELY DEFENDING ITS HANDLING OF LAST WEEK'S CIVIL UNREST TRIGGERED BY THE EXPULSION OF DRUG KINGPIN MATTA TO THE US. [REDACTED] b1, b3
[REDACTED] b3

THE ARMED FORCES HAS ISSUED A STRONGLY WORDED COMMUNIQUE DEFENDING ITS ARREST OF MATTA AS PROPER AND ORDERED BY THE 'HIGH MILITARY COMMAND.' IT SAID IT IS COMMITTED TO UPHOLD THE CONSTITUTION AND FIGHT NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS, DEMANDING THAT THOSE WITH EVIDENCE OF OFFICERS INVOLVED IN TRAFFICKING COME FORWARD. SENIOR OFFICERS ARE COOPERATING WITH AN INVESTIGATION OF THE MATTA AFFAIR BY THE HONDURAN CONGRESS. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] THE MILITARY'S ANNOUNCEMENT THAT RIERA WAS ACTING ON

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b3 [REDACTED] b3
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ORDERS PROBABLY IS DIRECTED AS MUCH AT REGALADO AS AT AZCONA. IN REAFFIRMING ITS COMMITMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND THE PRESIDENT, THE ARMED FORCES IS TRYING TO DEFLECT ACCUSATIONS THAT IT HAD ACTED IMPROPERLY. AT THE SAME TIME, IT IS TRYING TO LOOK UNITED AND TO AVOID COMMAND CHANGES THAT COULD BE PERCEIVED AS AN ATTEMPT TO APPEASE WASHINGTON. [REDACTED] b3

b1
b3 [REDACTED]

b1
b3 [REDACTED]

4. WEST GERMANY: HAMMADI TO BE TRIED IN JUVENILE COURT

THE DECISION THIS WEEK TO TRY ACCUSED TERRORIST MOHAMMAD HAMMADI IN A WEST GERMAN JUVENILE COURT MAY WIN HIM A LIGHTER SENTENCE, BUT IT IS LIKELY TO COMPLICATE ATTEMPTS TO WIN FREEDOM FOR RUDOLF CORDES, THE WEST GERMAN HOSTAGE HELD BY HIZBALLAH IN LEBANON. THE COURT HAS LEEWAY TO DECIDE WHETHER HAMMADI WAS A JUVENILE, ADOLESCENT, OR ADULT AT THE TIME OF THE TWA HIJACKING IN JUNE 1985, DURING WHICH A US SERVICEMAN WAS MURDERED. [REDACTED] THE JUDGES ALSO WILL CONSIDER HAMMADI'S "FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AND PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT" IN REACHING A VERDICT. WEST GERMAN OFFICIALS ARE STRESSING THAT HE STILL COULD RECEIVE LIFE IMPRISONMENT. [REDACTED] b3

[REDACTED] WEST GERMAN OFFICIALS EARLIER HAD RIDICULED HAMMADI'S CLAIM TO HAVE BEEN A JUVENILE AT THE TIME OF THE HIJACKING, BUT THE COURTS MAY HAVE DECIDED TO MOVE CAUTIOUSLY BECAUSE OF THE LINK b3

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b3 [REDACTED] b3
[REDACTED]
BETWEEN HIS TRIAL AND THE FATE OF CORDES. THE MOVE MAY COMPLICATE
NEGOTIATIONS WITH HIZBALLAH BY FURTHER DELAYING HAMMADI'S TRIAL AND
MAKING ITS OUTCOME LESS PREDICTABLE. THE KOHL GOVERNMENT WILL HOPE
b3 THAT THIS INCREASED UNCERTAINTY WILL GIVE IT MORE LEVERAGE IN
DEALING WITH THE KIDNAPERS. NONETHELESS, HIZBALLAH WILL PROBABLY
CONTINUE TO HOLD CORDES PENDING A FIRMER GUARANTEE OF LENIENCY FOR
HAMMADI. [REDACTED]

5. IN BRIEF
EAST ASIA

b1 [REDACTED]
b1 [REDACTED]
EUROPE

X--BULGARIAN ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF [REDACTED] TO VISIT GREECE
[REDACTED] RECIPROCATING UNPRECEDENTED TRIP OF GREEK COUNTERPART TO
SOFIA LAST SUMMER [REDACTED] b3, b1
b3 [REDACTED]

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